GALILEO ORBITAL MISSION: STATUS AND OVERVIEW

T. V. Johnson (Caltech/JPL Pasadena, CA 91109)

The Galileo orbital mission consists of eleven orbits of the giant planet over a 24 month period (7 Dec 1995 to 7 Dec 1997). During the mission thes acecraft will be observing Jupiter and the Galilean satellites, as wePl as making nearly continuous measurements of Jupiter's magnet osphere. Data COlection on a typical orbit starts with an encounter period lasting about seven days, when remote sensing data are stored on the ~1Gbit tape recorder along with high time resolution magnetospheric physics measurements. Real-time magnetospheric data is returned during this whole period, During the rest of the orbit (-1-2 months In duration) the recorded data are sent back to earth using on-board processlrg, editing and data compression to make the best use of data link (typically **40-100** bps). Real-time magnetospheric data are transmitted along with the recorded data wherever possible. The status of the spacecraft and mission and an overview of the science observing plans for the orbital mission will be presented.

1. T. V, Johnson
Jet Propulsion Laboratory MS 264-419
4800 Oak Grove Drive
Pasadena, **CA** 91109-8099
Tel: 818393-7957
Fax: **818354-6256**
E-Mail tjohnson@jpltvj.jpl.nasa.gov

2. Session 80.2

3. MSO: T. V. Johnson (USA)

4. 2 35mm slide and video projection requested (VHS or SVHS)

5. Oral

6. No financial as sis - tance applied for